

The I-26 Connector is the greatest opportunity we have at this time to enhance or diminish ^{the} sustainability of our community, depending on how it is implemented - We must pay attention and advocate for the positive.

Success =

Our downtowns are strong + vibrant and our urban areas are great places to live + work; they are surrounded by farms + forests and high quality natural resources; and our economy is driven by local businesses, jobs + local purchasing policies + practices.

A "PLANETARY REALITY" IS THE AGING OF OUR POPULATION
OUR "SYSTEM" OF THE FUTURE NEEDS TO EMBRACE THE
ELDERLY POPULATION OF OUR COMMUNITY, RATHER THAN
ISOLATE IT MORE BY CONSTRUCTION OF BARRIERS (PHYSICAL OR
SOCIAL)
INITIATION: ADVOCACY GROUPS FOR THE ELDERLY

We need real, effective mechanisms in place that
connect these sust. infrastructure projects to the people
living in the neighborhoods where those projects
are happening. This means getting community
representatives and workforce dev. institutions at the
table when contracting decisions are made and
developing formalized pathways from communities into
training programs and into jobs

Address institutional change @ federal, state, local levels to provide support networks that facilitate change in how we live & work in the region - i.e. change procurement procedures to prioritize local labor & green materials sourcing, change building codes to support systems of water catchment, natural building, & sustainable food systems, institute local food procurement requirements.

Encourage cradle to cradle business clusters as communities that support the larger communities.

Provide community capacity building via trainings that improve workforce development opportunities that lead to community buy-in and sense of ownership.

III. WHEN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT IS CONSIDERED AN INTEGRAL PART (AND CONTRIBUTOR) TO THE OVERALL ENVIRONMENT, RATHER THAN SOMETHING THAT DETRACTS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT.

REQUEST WAS MADE TO THE FEDERAL AGENCIES TO SEEK \$ - WE HAVE

STATUTORY LIMITS ON HOW TO USE \$ BUT

"THE PARTNERSHIPS" HAVE EXPANDED OUR OUTREACH

THE POINT HERE IS WE WILL TAKE THE MESSAGE BACK TO OUR AGENCIES BUT NEED ALL TO GET IN TOUCH WITH CONGRESSPERSONS SINCE THEY APPROPRIATE \$

I know we'll have made progress when:

- Real Estate development spending is predominated with increasing density in/near urban cores.
- Infrastructure spending (Roads, water, sewer, utilities) is ~~direct~~ re-directed from rural ^{areas} to urban cores.
- Vehicle-miles driven per capita is decreasing while the economy grows.
- We have a broader understanding that speculative real estate development does not yield sustainable economic development/vibrancy

NC leads in consumption of
coal (that comes from
mountain top removal)

success = refusing to
support such destructive
industry.

Efficiency Efficiency Efficiency

· Avoid at all costs the duplication
of effort. Do more with less.

Use existing neighborhood
and community groups to
identify informal leaders
that can represent the
values of citizens, advocate
freed upon sustainability
principles back to citizens,
and network with agencies
and organizations leading
regional sustainability efforts.
Identify existing regional
models for achieving this.

I will know we are moving
towards sustainability

When...
all planning, all talk;
acknowledges the reality
of Peak Oil -
that fossil fuel energy
will probably diminishes
by 25% 40% over the
next 20 years.

How will that impact
- where we live?
- what we eat?
- where our clothing comes
from?
- what jobs will exist?
YOU GET THE PICTURE

the private sector
suppliers of energy
and the electric co-ops
are not here. An
energy discussion will
just be that - a discussion -
if we don't engage the
large and small suppliers
and consumers of
energy.

When we go out to
inform those who are
not here, let's also
make time to listen &
hear from them their
dreams and how they
can contribute (their
strengths).

We will be successful
when — our young people
will be able stay in the
community — jobs + young will
be available — if they want to
stay...

- High-level policies (like the HUD-EPA-DoT initiative) need to "trickle down" to staff who make everyday design, funding, & implementation decisions. It's great to say we need to break down silos & consider all the different sectors listed, but when local or state policies make complete streets difficult (or impossible) to implement, the high level policy is just a piece of paper.

- Make sustainability accessible.
- help people understand that their actions impact their community, their region, their world. If you drive a car powered by petroleum, you share BP's culpability for the Gulf Coast oil spill.

Progress will be made when the Region has diversified energy portfolio, options + strategies that can provide affordable, accessible, + clean, efficient applications to individuals, families, + private + public institutions. This is needed B/c of current conditions in which demand outstrips supply + current consumption + production model cause negative externalities on community, econ, + environmental health.